

## From Your Pastor

### *Pray for Peace in the Holy Land*

The Scripture Readings next Sunday will take us to Jerusalem. Our observance of Palm Sunday will have us celebrating again the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. By next week's end we will have shared in the Lord's passion and death, awaiting his resurrection. Sadly, peace does not reign in Jerusalem today. In fact, peace has not been a true part of life there for a very long time.

The following is a statement of the Holy See on the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was made by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, on November 8, 2007, just before the International Peace Conference in Annapolis. Let us pray for peace in Jerusalem and in the Holy Land.

"...At the heart of the matter remains the problem of injustice. To postpone endlessly the resolution of this conflict by a refusal to negotiate and to compromise reasonably, by indecision or by a willingness to maintain the status quo, is to perpetuate injustice. Whether such a mindset is deliberate or not does not alter the reality on the ground, namely, innocent people and entire families on all sides continue to suffer terribly and infrastructures are destroyed even before they are ready for use.

"The centrality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the continuing instability in the Middle East and its impact on the whole international community cannot be ignored. Solving it will greatly contribute to ending other questions in the region and to greater understanding among the peoples of the world.

"In this regard, the Holy See remains convinced that the two-state solution has the best chance to settle the crisis. Bringing this solution to reality is not the primary responsibility of the Quartet [the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, and the United States], but of the parties directly concerned and the neighboring countries who have immediate interests in the whole question. While the international community can only do so much in providing all the support needed to bring together those in conflict, it is indispensable that the parties must set aside the pretense of peacemaking and start full negotiations on the two-state solution. The Holy See earnestly hopes that the international conference planned for the end of this month may move the peace process towards this end, towards the

definition of a realistic accord that the parties will be determined to implement.

"We all know that this is much easier said than done. The accumulated acts of injustice and violence across decades have resulted in deeply rooted recriminations and rage among peoples in the area, fueling the vicious cycle of violent retaliations. In a state of constant alarm and permanent anguish, peoples resort to forming communities in mutual isolation. This state of things makes a lasting solution much more difficult to find, because it is antithetical to building relationships and mutual trust which are necessary in any peace process and peaceful coexistence.

"The Holy See encourages groups within both the Israeli and Palestinian civil societies which, sharing the same loss and fear, reach out to one another to offer and receive forgiveness and reconciliation. We appeal not only to authorities, but to the entire Israeli, Palestinian and neighboring peoples, to consider how much this disposition of mutual empathy can bridge their otherwise mutually exclusive and contradictory claims which have so far prevented talks to come to fruition. Let us learn from peoples who have succeeded in putting an end to their strife. Patient dialogue, persevering trust, the overcoming of religious and cultural prejudices, and a manifest desire of entire communities for peace have brought the restoration of harmony in many countries previously devastated by hatred and violence. For this reason, the Holy See remains convinced that the different religious confessions in the Holy Land can make a significant contribution to resolving the conflict.

"Finally, in the hope that the many problems of the region will at last be resolved by negotiation and dialogue, the Holy See further underlines that a lasting solution must include the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem. In light of the numerous incidents of violence and challenges to free movement posed by the Security Wall, the Holy See renews its support for 'internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the City of Jerusalem the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the Holy Places by the faithful of all religions and nationalities' (A/RES/ES-10/2)."

God bless each of you.



*Mrs. Fay*

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Prayers Are Requested** for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Patrick Gallagher, Patrick Grealish, Thomas Larkin, Marie Faillace, James Molloy and deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

**A Third Mass During Lent** has been added to the daily Mass schedule at 5:30 pm from Monday through Friday. We encourage you to attend daily Mass during Lent.

**Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated every Friday in the lower church at 5:00 pm before the 5:30 Mass.

**WELCOME HOME FATHER O'ROURKE!** We are delighted to welcome Fr. Jim O'Rourke back to the rectory. During the past year he underwent major surgery to both of his knees with the requisite follow-up rehabilitation. You will, no doubt, see him wandering around soon. It is great to have him home!



The **ARISE Together in Christ** process continues in its sixth week. Please know that you are able to join a group at any time during the Season, which runs through the Season of Lent. As always, we ask you to pray regularly the *ARISE* Prayer (from the holy card or the back flap of the bulletin) for the success of this process in the parish. Thank you very much.

**2009 Catholic Appeal** – *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church.* "What shall I return to the Lord for all the Lord has given to me?" Christian stewards recognize Christ as the source of all good things. God calls us to share what we have to help others. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for Christ and for one another. The Catholic Appeal is one way to use our gifts for the Church. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider making a prayerful, thankful pledge to the Appeal this weekend. For more information please call 617-779-3700 or visit [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com). Thank you!

Dear Parishioner:

These are challenging times for many of us. However we continue to be blessed with a generous spirit throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. With your generosity and that of so many others, the Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy Funds increased this year by approximately 5%.

The Clergy Funds primary purpose is to provide medical care and retirement benefits to our senior clergy who have served parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. Stabilizing the Funds is a top priority of Cardinal Seán, the Archdiocese, and its priests.

We are thankful that you have chosen to give generously to the priests who have devoted their lives to faithfully serve God and the good work of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you for your continued support and your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
The Priests of the Archdiocese of Boston

**Offerings for Easter Flowers and the Paschal Candle** – Envelopes are available at the doors of the church for offerings towards flowers to decorate the church during the Easter Season. If you would like to make a special offering towards the cost of our 2009 Paschal Candle (costing \$750.00), please contact Patricia McShane at the Rectory (617-782-5774).

**The Legion of Mary** is now meeting on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the rectory.

**The Sisters of St. Joseph** invite you to an Evening of Prayer on April 30 at the Motherhouse. For more information call 781-383-6024.

### PARISH GIVING

**Parish Offertory (Mar. 21 – Mar. 22): \$4,237**

**St. Vincent de Paul (Mar. 21 - Mar. 22): \$92.00**

**Catholic Appeal (to date): \$14,447**

*Thank You for Your Generosity*

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**From an Easter Letter by Saint Athanasius,  
Bishop, (d. 373)**

*Keep the Coming Feast of the Lord  
through Deeds, not Words*

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: "See, I am with you all the days of this age." He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: "Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover." It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: "You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me." True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practice contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favor through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: "I am the way." As blessed John tells us: it is Christ "who takes away the sin of the world." It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: "Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls."

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the

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grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Savior as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: "See, we have left all things and followed you." We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

***The ARISE Prayer***

Gracious God and Father,  
we enter into your presence  
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.  
You know the cares and sufferings  
we carry in our hearts.  
You call us to holiness  
and we trust you to lead us together  
on our journey to be a renewed Church,  
for with you all things are possible.  
Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.  
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.  
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.  
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.  
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.  
Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.  
May your Holy Spirit empower us  
to live as a community of love,  
freed to share in your work  
of recreating our world and restoring justice.  
We believe you are doing something new,  
calling us to arise together in Christ  
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

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**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Sundays March 29 & April 5 & 26–9:30 am** Family Masses

**Monday April 6–7:00 pm** Lenten Penance Service

**Thursday April 30–7:00 pm** Healing Mass

**Sunday May 3- 11:15 am** First Communion

**Saturday May 9 – 10:00 am** Confirmation  
by Cardinal Seán

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**Masses - Fifth Week of Lent**

**Sunday, March 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Ann Corbett & Judy Ryan, Mem.  
7:30 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.  
9:30 am *Missa pro Populo*  
11:15 am Joseph P. McCrorey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.  
12:45 pm Ana Elisa Montes, Mem.  
5:00 pm Clare & Thomas Phillips, Sr. &  
Thomas, Jr., M
- Mon.** 7:00 am Mrs. Ifioghore Owumi, Mem.  
5:30 pm Teresa Freeman & Larry Byrne, Mem.
- Tue.** 7:00 am Mrs. Ifioghore Owumi, Mem.
- Wed.** 7:00 am Loreto Cedrone, 49<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
5:30 pm Vincenza & Domenico DiSciullo &  
Edward Eichenlaub, Mem.
- Thu.** 7:00 am Anne Ridge, Mem.  
5:30 pm Brian Honan, Mem.
- Fri.** 7:00 am Florence Mahoney, 4<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
5:30 pm Domenico, Lucia & Maria Cirigliano,  
Mem.
- Sat.** 7:00 am Margaret Scott, 25<sup>th</sup> Ann.

**Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday**

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Roland Doherty, 8<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
7:30 am Martin Coen, 1<sup>st</sup> Ann.  
9:30 am Kathleen Concaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.  
11:15 am James & Julia Hyland, Mem.  
12:45 pm *Missa pro Populo*  
5:00 pm The Keenan Family, Mem.

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**Comments:**

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